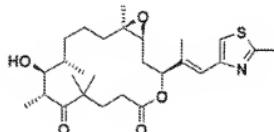


Arguments/Remarks

Claims 1-5 and 9 are pending in the present application. Claims 3 and 9 have been cancelled as being directed to non-elected subject matter. Claim 4 has been amended to eliminate the non-elected subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications which claim the non-elected subject matter.

Applicants elect the subject matter of Group I (Claims 1-5) drawn to a compound of formula I wherein R1 is chemical moiety (a) without traverse. Applicants provisionally elect the compound of Example 2 (illustrated below) as the species upon which the Examiner may begin examination on the merits.

(1S,3S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-11-Hydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-3-[(E)-1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl)-vinyl]-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione.



Applicants reserve the right to rejoiner of all compounds that fall within the scope of the current claims in addition to the provisionally elected species.

Respectfully submitted,

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